

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 36346 280923Z
ACTION VO-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIA-06 INSE-00 CA-01 EA-10 /023 W
-----021108 280935Z /20

P R 280826Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6913
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 36346

FOR DIRECTOR VO ARIAS

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SREF LA TH (BOUNHEAUNG MONIVONG)
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS - BOUNHEAUNG,
MANIVONG (9).

REF : 9 FAM PART III 22 CRF 42.26; BANGKOK 34633 (NOTAL;
VIENTIANE 1661 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: BOUNHEAUNG MANIVONG IS A FORMER USIS LAOS EMPLOYEE PRESENTLY INTERNED IN THE UBON REFUGEE CAMP. HE FLED ON JUNE 3 TO THAILAND FROM LAOS, TOGETHER WITH HIS WIFE AND SEVEN CHILDREN. BOUNHEAUNG IS ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION TO THE U.S. UNDER BOTH THE OLD LAO PROGRAM VIENTIANE RESERVE AND IPP-77. BUT IN VIEW OF HIS RECORD, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT HE SHOULD BE GRANTED MORE ADVANTAGEOUS STATUS THROUGH ADMISSION AS A PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIEN UNDER SPECIAL IMMIGRANT PROVISIONS. WE ARE SUBMITTING THIS RECOMMENDATION BY CABLE INSTEAD OF OM BECAUSE OF THE URGENCY OF ALLEVIATING BOUNHEAUNG'S CONFINEMENT TO THE REFUGEE CAMP. SINCE THERE ARE NO OFFICERS IN VIENTIANE WHO HAVE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF BOUNHEAUNG'S PERFORMANCE, EMBASSY VIENTIANE ENDORSES THE PRESENTATION BY EMBASSY BANGKOK OF BOUNHEAUNG'S CASE TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR CONSIDERATION AS
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AN SE-1 (REF C) . END SUMMARY

2. BOUNHEAUNG WAS A USIS EMPLOYEE, STATIONED MAINLY IN PAKSE, FROM 1959 UNTIL MID-1975. USIS RELUCTANTLY RELEASED HIM IN MID-1975 WHEN IT TERMINATED OPERATIONS OUTSIDE VIENTIANE, AND ONLY AFTER BOUNHEAUNG WAS UNABLE TO PERMANENTLY DEPART PAKSE WITH HIS FAMILY FOR TRANSFER TO VIENTIANE. HE FLED ON JUNE 3

TO THAILAND, TOGETHER WITH HIS WIFE AND SEVEN CHILDREN. ACCORDING TO AMERICAN ASSOCIATES, HIS PERFORMANCE OVER THE 16 YEARS HE WORKED FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS OF HIGH QUALITY, AND BROUGHT HIM TO THE RANK OF A SENIOR LOCAL EMPLOYEE.

3. BOUNHEAUNG SERVED IN THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

1959-1961 LIBRARY CLERK, USIS ATTOPEU
1962-1963 LIBRARY CLERK, USIS PAKSE
1964-1967 INFORMATION ASSISTANT II, USIS PAKSE
1967-1971 PROGRAM ASST. II, USIS PAKSE
1971-1972 PROGRAM ASST. II, USIS VIENTIANE
1972-1975 USIS REPRESENTATIVE, PAKSE

HE BEGAN AS AN FSL-8, AND HAD ATTAINED AN FSL-3 LEVEL WHEN HE WAS RELEASED. BOUNHEAUNG RECEIVED A MERITORIOUS HONOR AWARD IN 1968 . IN 1969 HE VISITED THE U.S. UNDER A USIA FOREIGN NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM.

4. BOUNHEAUNG'S POSITION AS THE ONLY "USIS REPRESENTATIVE" IN SOUTHERN LAOS SO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED HIM WITH USG INTERESTS THAT DURING THE 1975 PAKSE PROTESTS HE WAS ACCUSED BY NAME OF BEING A CIA AGENT. WHILE ACTING AS THE "USIS REPRESENTATIVE," HE TRAVELLED THROUGHOUT THE AREA PRESENTING U.S. INFORMATION AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS TO SENIOR ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. HE WAS EVEN MORE CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE U.S. THROUGH HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROLE AS A VOA LAO SERVICE CORRESPONDENT, AND IN THESE REPORTS WAS OFTEN IDENTIFIED BY NAME.

5. AFTER TERMINATION, AND AT GREAT RISK TO HIMSELF, HE SENT THE THEN PAO LARRY DAKS WRITTEN REPORTS ON THE LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE IN PAKSE AND ON VOA LISTENERSHIP.

6. AFTER LEAVING USIS, LPDR AUTHORITIES IN PAKSE PUT BOUNHEAUNG TO WORK ON A CONSTRUCTION GANG IN SARAVANE PROVINCE. LATER THEY EMPLOYED HIM AT THE PAKSE RADIO STATION. HE FLED AFTER LEARNING THE PATHET LAO HAD PUT HIM AND ANOTHER FORMER USIS EMPLOYEE ON A "SEMINAR" LIST.

7. BOUNHEAUNG'S POSITION AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE OVERALL MISSION EFFORT IN LAOS IS SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF KHAMSY SOUTHIDA, WHO THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY APPROVED FOR A SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA (STATE 295947). WE BELIEVE, BASED ON FACTS PROVIDED BY FORMER VIENTIANE PAO DAKS, WHO SUPERVISED BOUNHEAUNG FROM 1967 TO 1969 AND 1974 TO 1975, THAT THE GRANTING OF SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS IN THIS CASE IS CLEARLY IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST. WE FEEL BOUNHEAUNG'S SERVICE DESERVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND BELIEVE THE CONFERRAL OF SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS UPON BOUN-

HEAUNG APPROPRIATE.
O'DONOHUE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IMMIGRANTS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Office: ACTION VO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BANGKOK 34633
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 124082
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS - BOUNHEAUNG, MANIVONG (9).
TAGS: SREF, LA, TH, (BOUNHEAUNG MONIVONG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1f075efc-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009